



SMU Law Review

Volume 72 | Issue 2

Article 2

2019

Professor Maureen Armour

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Recommended Citation

Jennifer M. Collins, *Professor Maureen Armour*, 72 SMU L. REV. 217 (2019)
<https://scholar.smu.edu/smulr/vol72/iss2/2>

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PROFESSOR MAUREEN ARMOUR

*Jennifer M. Collins**

IT is my great privilege today to introduce this tribute issue to the extraordinary Professor Maureen Armour. Professor Armour earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz, a master's in social work from the University of California at Berkeley, and her J.D. degree from SMU, where she was the valedictorian of her class.

After graduation, Professor Armour clerked for the Honorable Barefoot Sanders and then joined the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where she rose to the level of partner. We were fortunate enough to lure her to SMU in 1989, where she served as a professor and the co-director of the Civil Clinic until her well-deserved retirement.

Let me share just a few highlights from her almost thirty years at SMU. Professor Armour taught the Civil Clinic, Civil Rights Litigation, Conflicts, and Aging and the Law. She taught in Oxford and served as our Associate Dean for Clinics. She was instrumental in developing our Child Advocacy Clinic, our externship program with Legal Services of North Texas, and a mediation clinic. She served on more law school and bar committees than she cares to remember. She was honored with the Louise Raggio Award from the Dallas Women Lawyers Association in 2001 and was the 2016 winner of the Willis M. Tate Award, a Student Senate Award that honors an outstanding faculty member who has been deeply involved in student life.

Most importantly, she always fought for the rights of those desperately in need of legal assistance. She fought for the rights of a disabled and paraplegic prisoner, securing one of the largest judgments ever awarded in a case brought by a law school clinic. She represented nursing home residents, low-income tenants, the blind, those caught up in the criminal justice system, and even an occasional goat farmer. As one of her former clinic students wrote,

Professor Armour was a great teacher and mentor. I found Professor Armour to be a rarity. She was candid about the beauty as well as the shortcomings of the law. I so admired her superior intellect and adored that wicked sense of humor. My clinic experience is by far one of my fondest memories of my time in law school.

Professor Armour has influenced the careers of countless law students and positively impacted the lives of so many in our community. I am per-

* Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law.

sonally so grateful for her wisdom, passion, and her absolute commitment to doing what is right, even when that is difficult. I hope you will enjoy this tribute to her remarkable career.